

**TITLE****METHOD FOR REDUCING START UP BLINDING IN NO-PROCESS  
LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES****ABSTRACT**

5           A method for reducing start up blinding in no-process lithographic printing  
plates is disclosed. An imageable element, comprising an imageable layer over  
a substrate, is thermally imaged. The imageable layer comprises a thermally  
sensitive polymer that comprises quaternary ammonium salts of carboxylic acids.  
Following imaging, the surface of the imaged imageable is contacted with an  
10   aqueous solution comprising 0.05 wt% to about 5 wt% of an added organic acid  
having a pKa of about 1 to about 6. This reduces the amount of waste produced  
by the printing process by reducing the number of unusable sheets produced  
during the "make ready" process.